

habitat for colonisation or recolonisation? Presumably this happens, yet observations of "stray" butterflies in unexpected places are few. For example, Harman (1) mentions one *Euphydryas aurinia*, Archer-Lock (5) records *Melanargia galathea* (in October), my son found *Strymonidia w-album* in the year of the drought (6), when unusual records were more frequent; I once recorded *Limenitis camilla* in London, when it was expanding its range everywhere (7) and *Lysandra coridon* flying along a lane some 500m. from its obvious place of origin and although there must be very many more sightings than these, I do not think they provide a satisfactory explanation for the spread of a butterfly such as *L. bellargus* which requires a specialised habitat and has only one foodplant, Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*). For a species such as *Pararge aegeria*, with a widely distributed foodplant and a less specialised habitat, a gradual encroachment on a broad front, as must have happened in Kent in the 1950's would certainly be possible, but I remain puzzled by the others. What do other readers think?

### Postscript

In 1980, *bellargus* reappeared in even greater numbers, both in the first and second broods. And we found the Autumn Ladies Tresses!

### References

- (1) Harman, T., 1979. Private Communication.
- (2) Baker, B., 1979. Private Communication.
- (3) Muggleton, J., 1973. Some Aspects of the History and Ecology of Blue Butterflies in the Cotswolds. *Proc. Brit. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 6 (3): 77-84.
- (4) Ford, E. B., 1945. *Butterflies*. Collins. pp. 272, 299.
- (5) Archer-Lock, A., 1979. Bagpipes and Cider. *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 212.
- (6) Showler, A., 1977. Observations in 1976. *Ent. Rec.*, 99: 85.
- (7) Showler, A., 1956. The Macrolepidoptera of Abbey Wood. *Ent. Rec.*, 68: 124 et seq.

FERAL RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. DISCHARGING MECONIUM.  
— On the evening of 2nd July 1980, I ran a small nine inch actinic blue light tube in the East Blean area of Kent. Amongst a number of insects attracted was a fresh specimen of the Vestal (*R. sacraria*). It was interesting that when put into a one inch tube it ejected meconium, suggesting the likelihood that the moth had bred in the wood or nearby.  
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THE SLENDER BURNISHED BRASS: DIACHRYSLIA ORICHALCEA F. — A male specimen of this rare migrant was taken by myself at Lymington, Hants at m.v. light on the night of the 5th September 1980. — A S. HARMER, 'Covertside', Sway Road, Lymington, Hants, SO4 8MN.

THE SILVER-STRIPED HAWKMOTH: HIPPIOTON CELERIO L. IN YORKSHIRE. — My friend A. S. Ezard took a fine male of this scarce migrant in his garden trap at Rudston in East Riding, on the 19th September 1980. — P. Q. WINTER, West End Farm, Muston, Filey, N. Yorkshire.